

***This Week in Congress***

*September 13, 2010*

Dear Friend,

Welcome to "This Week in Congress." Years ago, before air conditioning, Congress began a practice of leaving Washington, D.C. each August to escape the summer heat. Since then, the month of August has become a time when Senators and Representatives return to their states to meet with folks back home.

Over the past few weeks, I have enjoyed visiting with Kansans at chamber of commerce events, parades, Rotary Club meetings, county fairs, Kiwanis meetings, picnics, roundtable discussions and county Farm Bureau annual meetings. I also toured hospitals and medical centers, an ethanol plant, the VA Health Revenues Center, small businesses and McConnell Air Force base —

— just to name a few of my activities. I am grateful for the opportunity to return home during August to spend more time with Kansans and to better understand issues most important to them.

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## **Remembering the Tragic Events of September 11th**

Saturday marked the 9th anniversary of the September 11th attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C. On this day, we remember the thousands of innocent Americans who lost their lives in this cowardly act of violence, and the loved ones they left behind. We also remember our men and women in uniform who continue to defend our country against acts of terror at home and abroad, especially those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. As a member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I have worked hard to make sure our country upholds the promises made to members of our military and their families. As our troops continue to defend our country against terrorism, I pledge my continued support for our men and women in uniform and will work to make sure our troops have the resources they need to complete the mission.

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## **Kansas State Fair Begins in Hutchinson**

The Kansas State Fair began Friday and will last through Sunday, September 19th. Each year, I travel to Hutchinson to attend the fair and visit with some of the 350,000 people who attend. The fair is the largest single event in our state and has been showcasing some of the best of Kansas for more than 95 years.

I began my day at the fair Saturday by attending the Kansas Farm Bureau Breakfast. I spoke to Farm Bureau members and agricultural leaders from across the state about the importance of farming and ranching to our state's economy and way of life. The House and Senate Agriculture Committees are already holding hearings to prepare to write a new farm bill, which establishes the policies and programs for agriculture every five years. It is important that the bill be carefully written to ensure that agriculture remains profitable so there is a next generation of farmers and ranchers in our communities. Thanks to President Steve Baccus and all of the members of the Farm Bureau for their warm hospitality.

On Saturday, I also had the opportunity to speak with many Kansans as I visited different booths and enjoyed the exhibits. These conversations are always helpful as they give me direction for what to focus on in Washington, D.C.

As in years past, I have a booth at the fair in the Pride of Kansas Building. Members of my staff will be available each day of the fair to answer questions and provide information. I hope to see

you and your family at the fair this year. [Click here](#) to view photos from the fair. [Click here](#) to watch an interview I did with Janet West of Kiowa County for the Kiowa County Media Center.



